

Powers Deserved To Be Cleared

Francis Gary Powers, the U-2 plane pilot brought down over Russia while on a spying mission in 1960, has been cleared of improper conduct by



POWERS

the Central Intelligence Agency, for which he was employed, and by the Senate Armed Services Committee.

We think the investigation by the CIA and the questioning by the Senate committee should end any idea that Pilot Powers behaved in other than in the best American tradition.

To those who think Mr. Powers should have used his suicide kit to avoid capture we suggest that they try to put themselves in his place. Actually, according to CIA, the suicide kit was to be used only in the event the pilot was tortured. He has said the Russians treated him kindly.

If Mr. Powers had died in the performance of his duty he would be an outstanding hero. He survived, and seems to have told the Russians little that could be useful to them. We are glad he has been cleared. He still rates as a hero.